HARTLEPOOL PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE

Year ending 31st Dec., 1896,

BY

SAMUEL BIGGART, M.D., C.M.

West Hartlepool:

STEEL BROS., PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, 55, CHURCH STREET.

HARTLEPOOL PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE

Year ending 31st Dec., 1896,

BY

SAMUEL BIGGART, M.D., C.M.

West Hartlepool:

STEEL BROS., PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, 55, CHURCH STREET.

Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.

CHAIRMAN—JAMES LOAN.

West Hartlepool Representatives:

J. SUGGITT, Lower Archer Street, West Hartlepool
J. F. WILSON, The Park, West Hartlepool
J. C. DYER, Stockton Road, West Hartlepool
J. LOAN, York Road, West Hartlepool
C. MACFARLANE, Cambridge Terrace, West Hartlepool
T. KIRTLEY. Whitby Street, West Hartlepool
T. CLARKSON, Westbourne Road, West Hartlepool
C. F. JEFFERIES, Park Road, West Hartlepool
T. MILLER, 41, Carlton Street, West Hartlepool

Hartlepool Representatives:

J. HORSLEY, Sedgewick House, Hartlepool
J. HUNTER, High Street, Hartlepool.
H. WITHY, Brantford House, West Hartlepool
F. YEOMAN, Henry Smith Terrace, Hartlepool
T. W. WATSON, Gladstone Street, Hartlepool
W. S. MERRYWEATHER, 10, Cliff Terrace, Hartlepool

FIXED DAYS OF MEETING.

January	21st,	1897	May	20th,	1897	September	16th,	1897
February	18th,	„	June	17th,	„	October	21st,	„
March	18th,	„	July	15th,	„	November	18th,	„
April	15th,	„	August	19th	„	December	16th,	„

EACH DAY AT 3-15 P.M.

General Purposes Committee:

J. HORSLEY — C. MACFARLANE — T. W. WATSON
J. HUNTER — F. YEOMAN — J. C. DYER
J. SUGGITT — T. CLARKSON

Officers:

Clerk—W. W. BRUNTON, Solicitor, 52, Church Street, West Hartlepool
Medical Officer—S. BIGGART, M.D., 116, Scarbro' Street, West Hartlepool
Surveyor—J. W. BROWN, Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool
Inspector—S. W. HASTINGS, 10, Sea Terrace, Middleton, Hartlepool
Assistant Inspector—T. POUNDER, Pilot Master, Duke Street, Hartlepool

West Hartlepool,

14th January, 1897.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I herewith furnish you with my Annual Report for the year 1896.

HOSPITAL.

During the year 1896, thirty-seven cases were admitted into the Port Sanitary Hospital as compared with forty-three cases during 1895. These were found to be suffering from the following diseases, viz.:

From Typhoid Fever ...	...	18 cases
,, Scarlet Fever ...	...	16 ,,
,, Small-pox ...	...	2 ,,
,, Malarial Fever ...	...	1 ,,

Of these 37 cases, 29 came from West Hartlepool, 5 from Hartlepool, and 3 from ships.

Six deaths occurred during the year, four from Scarlet Fever, and two from Typhoid Fever.

In the year 1895, out of seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever, we had only one death. This year, from sixteen cases, we had four deaths, shewing the fever to have been of a much more virulent type.

In the year 1895, out of eighteen cases of Typhoid Fever, we had six deaths, while last year we had the same number of cases, but only two deaths, so that the mortality of the two diseases was reversed.

The two cases of Small-pox were imported into West Hartlepool in the month of April last, from Gloucester, by rail, where Small-pox was so rampant, and from the precautions taken, no other case occurred, which is a matter for congratulation.

Of the three cases from ships, two were Typhoid Fever, and one Malarial Fever.

During the year, the Hospital has been re-fitted with four new stoves, and is in a thoroughly efficient condition, is in good repair, and perfectly water-tight. It stood the storms well. Internally it is thoroughly clean and well disinfected.

The management has given entire satisfaction, not only to me, but so far as I could learn, to the patients themselves.

The administrative buildings have been painted inside and out, and are in good condition.

I do not know of anything else in connection with the Hospital calling for any special remarks.

SHIPPING.

During the year I inspected 54 vessels as compared with 61 in 1895.

The causes of inspection may be classified as follows :—

20 vessels—with sickness on board reported by Custom House Officers on arrival.

10 vessels—seamen taken ill whilst vessels were being discharged.

7 vessels—to examine crews and passengers.

3 vessels—with quarantine flag flying—these had dead bodies on board.

3 vessels—laid-up—Measles in watchman's family.

1 vessel—Informal Bill of Health.

1 vessel—to inquire into cause of death of Second Mate, which took place at Gothenburgh.

8 vessels—re-visited.

1 vessel—the "Jenny Otto," had crew paid off here.

Total—54

When the Second Mate arrived at Shields, I had a telegram from the Medical Officer of Health for Shields, informing me that the Second Mate had developed Small-pox. Upon receipt of this telegram, the vessel was thoroughly fumigated, bedding, &c. burned, and the man's clothes were taken to the Port Sanitary Hospital, where they were put through the disinfecting apparatus, and thereafter thoroughly washed before being forwarded to Shields. No other case occurred.

TRANSMIGRANTS, IMMIGRANTS, AND PASSENGERS.

1065 Transmigrants passed through in 1896, viz., 516 males, 310 females, and 239 children.

621 Immigrants arrived, viz., 386 males, 138 females, and 97 children.

397 Alien Sailors arrived, these were mostly crews for new German steamers built at this and neighbouring ports.

299 British subjects arrived as passengers.

All the above were seen by the Inspector on their arrival or before landing, and in all cases where any doubt existed as to their all being healthy my attention was called thereto, and I visited the vessels.

VESSELS INSPECTED BY MR. S. W. HASTINGS, FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1896, AND ALSO WHAT HE ORDERED TO BE DONE:

British Steam Ships	...	...	453	
„ Sailing Vessels	...	...	141	
„ Fishing Vessels	...	...	140	
Foreign Steam Ships	...	...	186	
„ Sailing Vessels	...	...	335	—1255
Re-visits to Passenger Steamers and to vessels discharging perishable cargoes, and to see Sanitary defects removed	...	...		419
		Total number of inspections		—1674

The Nationalities of the vessels were as follows:

British	...	...	...	734
Swedish	...	...	...	252
Norwegian	...	...	...	153
German	...	...	...	54
Danish	...	...	...	34
Russian	...	...	...	18
French	...	...	...	4
Dutch	...	...	...	4
Belgian	...	...	...	1
Spanish	...	...	...	1
			Total	—1255

125 Notices were given for Sanitary defects, viz. :—

Dirty Forecastle and Deck-houses ...	70
Broken Port-Lights in Forecastle ...	6
Leaking Forecastle	4
Chocked W.C. and Defective Drainage ...	10
No Pipe from Forecastle, both lead through W.C.	3
Defective Ventilation	2
Berth not lined overhead (iron decks) ...	4
Water Pump out ~~of gear,~~ Tanks and Receptacles cleaned	12
Bread Tanks foul, fumigated and limed out	1
Cattle Decks cleansed and disinfected ...	2
Vessels fumigated and disinfected ...	11
	125

The cleansing and disinfection of the spaces and cabins on 97 passenger and emigrant steamers have also been seen to.

All are known to have complied with requirements except where vessels have had to leave this port. In such cases if vessels were going to a neighbouring port to load, the Inspector at such ports was notified and asked to see the work carried out.

From the above, it will appear that the Sanitary condition of the vessels has occupied much of the Inspector's attention and time.

I look upon the water supply to the vessels as of the first importance, and this has always been carefully attended to.

The year's work has been of the ordinary kind, and requires no further special remarks.

I have again to thank one and all of the Custom's Officials and others connected with the Port and Harbour for their cordial help and co-operation with us in carrying out the work of the Port Sanitary Authority of the Hartlepools.

S. BIGGART, M.D.,

Medical Officer,

Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.